

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/800,842

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Applicant(s)

MATTSON, JERRY L.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on June 6, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 20-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on June 6, 2005.
2. Claim 19 has been canceled.
3. Claims 1-18 and 20-30 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The concrete module for assembling float structures as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a concrete module having a buoyant core that is surrounded by a concrete shell, one or more sides having a curved surface to allow vertical edges of said side to abut against vertical edges of a facing side of an adjoining module and leave a vertical gap in a center area of said abutting modules, a first pair of passages for receiving a first pair of interconnecting members through said module in a first plane, and a second pair of passages for receiving a second pair of interconnecting members through said module in a second plane. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a mold for forming a concrete module, said mold being comprised of a bottom plate for forming a top surface of a concrete module, at least three side plates that are each secured along a lower edge to said bottom plate, said lower edge having a bevel that extends inwardly toward a center of said bottom plate, said side plates having two vertical edges and a vertical surface that is curved inwardly toward a center of said mold, and said vertical edges of one side plate abutting adjacent vertical edges of an adjacent side plate in order to form an enclosure. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a method for forming a concrete module, said method being

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comprised of the steps of cleaning interior surfaces of a mold with a bottom and at least three sides, oiling said interior surfaces with a concrete release coating, placing a pre-trimmed foam core upside down in said mold, inserting core rods through apertures in said sides that are aligned with apertures in opposite sides of said mold and grooves in said foam core, adding concrete to said mold over and around said foam core, vibrating said sides, scraping concrete flush with top edges of said sides, removing said core rods, removing said concrete module, and placing said concrete module right side up for use or storage.

5. The prior art as disclosed by Mattson (US 6,199,502) shows the use of a concrete module that is comprised of a buoyant core that is surrounded by a concrete shell having a top, four sides and a bottom, at least one of said sides having a curved surface, a first pair of passages for receiving a first pair of interconnecting members through said concrete module in a first plane, and a second pair of passages for receiving a second pair of interconnecting members through said concrete module in a second plane. However, said concrete module does not present a vertical gap when a vertical edge of a side of said module abuts against vertical edges of a facing side of an adjoining module. Said concrete module is also not formed in a mold having a bottom plate for forming a top surface of said concrete module, nor is it formed including the step of placing a pre-trimmed foam core upside down in a mold. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a concrete module for assembling float structures, said concrete module having a buoyant core that is surrounded by a concrete shell, one or more sides having a curved surface to allow vertical edges of said

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side to abut against vertical edges of a facing side of an adjoining module and leave a vertical gap in a center area of said abutting modules, a first pair of passages for receiving a first pair of interconnecting members through said module in a first plane, and a second pair of passages for receiving a second pair of interconnecting members through said module in a second plane. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a mold for forming a concrete module, said mold being comprised of a bottom plate for forming a top surface of a concrete module, at least three side plates that are each secured along a lower edge to said bottom plate, said lower edge having a bevel that extends inwardly toward a center of said bottom plate, said side plates having two vertical edges and a vertical surface that is curved inwardly toward a center of said mold, and said vertical edges of one side plate abutting adjacent vertical edges of an adjacent side plate in order to form an enclosure. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a method for forming a concrete module, said method being comprised of the steps of cleaning interior surfaces of a mold with a bottom and at least three sides, oiling said interior surfaces with a concrete release coating, placing a pre-trimmed foam core upside down in said mold, inserting core rods through apertures in said sides that are aligned with apertures in opposite sides of said mold and grooves in said foam core, adding concrete to said mold over and around said foam core, vibrating said sides, scraping concrete flush with top edges of said sides, removing said core rods, removing said concrete module, and placing said concrete module right side up for use or storage.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

June 27, 2005

**LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Lars Olson
6/27/05